

REMARKS

Preliminary Matters:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority and receipt of the priority document. Further, it is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has considered the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 7 and October 11, 2005, respectively. Finally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings.

Disposition of Claims:

Claims 1-26 are all the claims pending in the application and have been rejected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101:

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 25 has been canceled without prejudice and claim 26 has been amended to recite "A computer storage recording medium" which is tangible such as a CD or the like. Thus, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15, 17-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nori, et al. (WO 01/014962) in view of Kohl (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,878). Still further, claims 2, 4, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nori in view of Kohl, and further in view of Iriuchijima, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,006). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite: "wherein the value of each permission is follow foreign object or own."

This is taken from a portion of claim 8, but is a very distinct feature of the present invention which is not known from or suggested by any of the prior art documents. As indicated by the inventors, this aspect is one of the most important innovative ideas which discern this invention from other systems and methods in this field.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, the features b) and c) of claim 1 as originally filed are not disclosed by Nori, et al. The now added feature is also not disclosed by Nori, et al. According to the Examiner, items b) and c) are known from Kohl

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kohl only discloses to the skilled person that different users or groups may be defined, with possibly different application definition data. The Examiner refers to the wording “different access and security level for different groups of users”, but in Applicant’s view Kohl only discloses that the application definition data includes information pertaining to application security (lines 38-40).

In no way does this teach or suggest to the skilled person features b) and c) of the present independent claims 1 and 13, as these features specifically defines a group of users and the related assignment of permissions.

Furthermore, the added limitation with regard to the value of the permissions being “follow foreign object or own” is not mentioned or suggested in any manner in Kohl. As explained in the application as filed (see page 17, line 10-3 of the PCT publication), these choices of values of the permission have specific advantages for efficient use in a system or method for executing a software application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully argued that the independent claim 1 and 13 are directed to novel and non-obvious subject matter as required in USC 35 sections 102 and 103.

By reference, the dependent claims also comprise this subject matter, and should also be held allowable.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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